

Sequachee Valley News.

VOL. XVI.

SEQUACHEE, TENN., THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1909.

NO. 38.

SHREVEPORT, MISS.

Description of a Beautiful City.

A VISIT TO THE OIL WELLS

Capt. John Frater Writes Interesting Letter to the News.

1750 Line Ave., Shreveport, La. March 11, 1909.

Editors News:

You may think I have forgotten you and gone back on my promise to write. I have done neither. I have often thought of writing, but have been very busy—like the "hen with one chicken." The first month after our arrival at Shreveport I spent in riding around with the boys in buggy or auto, with Dr. Joe or Dr. Fred, as the case might be. They would call on their patients and I would hold the buggy or auto down until their return. By this means I saw much of the city. They claim to have 33 miles of paved streets, some concrete, some bituminous, very hard and smooth. Pavements or sidewalks are all concrete. Many of the streets have sidewalks that have not got pavement yet. The city promises a good deal of pavement this spring and summer.

This city has been badly set back the last two years. In 1907 by the boll weevil destroying or injuring the cotton crop (cotton has been the backbone of this whole section of Louisiana) and last year by the June flood and boll weevil. Some planters lost every thing—not only their crops but stock, also. What the flood left the boll weevil took. Diversified farming is now the order of the day. A great quantity of corn was grown last year after the flood, planting going on up to the middle of August, and got good results, helping the farmers out a great deal. This year farming will be very much mixed, more corn and alfalfa will be raised than ever and peanuts or goobers (the Spanish) for oil making. One of the cotton seed oil mills have decided themselves to take all the peanuts they can get—better—and many farmers are interested with them to plant a few acres, at a good paying price.

Shreveport is the nearest city I ever saw. It is the largest of any account, except New Orleans, and that is the Etwa. Gas is sold for heating, cooking and manufacturing. Prices are: domestic use, 25c per 1,000, less ten per cent. off for cash on first of month; manufacturers, 8c per 1,000. This is cubic feet. A great many of the locomotives burn oil so that there is very little smoke. Shreveport is not a level city by any means. It is a city of hills, or as one of my friends says, "erosions"—hills and hollows everywhere. The hills are graded down and the hollows filled up to make the city. There are few level streets and there has been so many additions and annexes, and each one laid off to suit the whims of their owner, or the conformation of the land. Each addition being a law to itself, the streets don't always match where they connect, but the general trend is about the same. The streets are wide and laid off in the residence sections about as follows: Side walk, six feet; esplanade, 9 feet; avenue, 40 feet; esplanade, 9 feet; side walk, 6 feet. The houses are generally 20 to 40 feet back from the side walk, which space is usually devoted to lawns, evergreens and flowers. There are some very large and fine houses and large lots, well laid out and taken care of. In fact, the residence portion is beautiful.

We had a visit a few days ago from Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lodge, of So. Pittsburg. They were well pleased with the city, and others whom we have seen express their surprise at its cleanliness and beauty.

After my first month's leisure, riding around, looking at lots that were for sale, for a suitable location to build, we selected this lot on Line Avenue, so named from being on the Range line and running from Red River several miles down towards New Orleans. The lot is 70x175. About six weeks were spent on plans and contracting. After lots of delays we got to housekeeping the last week in December. House is 1½ stories, built bungalow style, six rooms and bath room on floor, three rooms and attic upstairs. The attic is not finished as we have room enough without it, and is used for storage for trunks, etc. Dr. Joe is with us here. We are three minutes' walk from Dr. Fred's on Herndon Avenue—very convenient for both families. They have an office over the First National Bank about a mile away. Dr. Joe's office hours are from 10 to 12; Dr. Fred's from 3 to 5. They have a good practice and are a great help to each other and their patients have the benefit of two doctors, a help to them also.

After the lot was secured I commenced on the garden. This had been high ground and was graded down to 3 feet above the street, soil all gone, hard joint red clay—two kinds of it, very hard and far harder. This was what I had to make a garden of. I plowed and plowed and kept on plowing and harrowing, and put on stable manure, the first lot ten double mule team loads—they don't speak of it here as manure. One of the colored men working for me corrected me in this. When speaking of it I called it stable manure. He said there were two kinds here, which did I want—stable fertilizer or dairy fertilizer? I stood corrected by a darker. I told him I would try both and have kept on until

about 35 loads have been put on. Have had a good winter garden. Never had finer bush beans than we gathered up to the middle of November, radishes, lettuce, beets, spinach, onions, collards, and turnips. The coldest snap we had was 21 degrees—eleven below freezing. I covered the lettuce and saved it. The rest all stood the freeze. We have had four cold snaps, however. I stand the cold worse here than in Tennessee. The atmosphere is more humid here than in the mountains, and this makes us feel the cold more. I commenced planting garden the 15th of February, and have nearly all kinds of vegetables planted now, and many of them up. Peas are away up and potatoes looking fine. Got an 8 fig trees, 3 peaches, 2 apple trees and 30 blackberry and 36 raspberry bushes, 500 strawberry and 150 asparagus plants. Every available foot of ground will be made to do its duty, for it is so valuable to be idle. So you see I have been busy as I said. My general health has been good and I am glad when night comes, although I sometimes would like to do just a little more work. Sister Hannah has improved wonderfully, but she is not yet fully recovered. Millie and Sister got along finely in housekeeping. It is much easier here than in the valley. We have no fireplaces but stoves with open fronts for heating and gas for cooking. All you have to do is to strike a match and you have a full-grown fire for cooking. We have an automatic water heater. It is something like another circular stove about 4 feet high. A small gas jet, a mere speck, burns all the time, and is called the pilot. When you want hot water at either the kitchen sink or the washbowl or the bath tub, turn on the hot water tap and you get the hot water. The pressure of water when turned on moves a valve in the heater which turns on four large gas jets under and inside of distilling worm, which the water comes through. If it gets too hot it shuts the gas off, water cools a little, then lights up full again until you turn off the water where you are using it, and then gas is shut off except the pilot which keeps on burning day and night, but is so small it is never noticed inside the heater. We use no lamps either. Turn a button and we have an electric light. We have a button in every room and in the kitchen an extra button turns on a light on the kitchen porch and the stable 80 feet away. So you see we have no coal nor ashes to carry out, and no dust, no lamps to oil or clean, yet there is still plenty of housework to do, but as I said, it is easier. Do we like Shreveport? Yes, of course we do. Sister and Millie like it well. Sister has liked it ever since her first visit several years ago and Millie is very much interested in the Sunday school, the Epworth League and other church work, and I—well, you see, the boys are here, Fred's wife and two grandchildren, and of course I like Shreveport. Yes, I have a boy's class in Sunday school and preaching twice every Sunday by a good, wholesome, energetic, godly preacher. The members of the church and Sunday School are very kind and good people. Church membership has nearly doubled and the Sunday School has more than doubled since I came. It is a Mission church. Have a temporary building under way, and of building a large fine church, got a lot, and one man gives \$10,000 towards it—yet it's not Bethel Church and Sunday School and Shreveport is not Victoria to me. We will change the subject.

A few weeks ago, with a friend of Dr. Joe's from Asheville, N. C., who called to see him, we went out to the oil field (Caddo), 25 miles to Oil City, to see the two "wild wells," as they are called. Before we got off the train we heard a roaring as of another train passing us, and when we got off and the train pulled out we still heard the roaring noise, with every now and again extra belches. We were told it was the wild burning gas well over a mile away. We walked out to it. The ground was in a tremor as though a heavy train was passing and as we neared the well the tremor was stronger. We saw when we got to it that the crater was about 100 acres across the top, but the heat was so intense we could not get near enough to see the bottom of it. The roar is so great you can't hear any one talk to you, shout ever so loud. The flame is going up from 75 to 100 feet and from 6 to 8 feet through at the base to 50 or 60 feet through near the top. This is called the dry well—nothing but gas coming out from an 8 inch tube. The pressure is 450 lbs to the square inch—no wonder it roars. We left this and started to the burning well about a mile away, and passed some wells in active operation. One well has run 300 barrels per day, but was now reduced to 175 on account of the tubes being furied up inside. The man in charge told us they would have to run a drill down to clean out the tubes after a while and she would run 300 barrels again. This well was throwing the oil into a tank 30 feet high. We saw the gas escaping from the tank as it came up with the oil. It is the gas that forces the oil up and all this gas is wasted. I said we saw the gas—we saw the shimmer of the gas like hot air from a twelve inch box pipe, about 12 feet above the top of tank. There was another well about 300 yards from this, a 200-barrel, finished and capped, waiting for tanks and pipes. Train load after train load of oil tank cars go out from Oil City and Mooringsport every day. Pipes for oil from 6 inch to 8 inch and 1½ inch to 2 inch water pipes are laid through the woods every way. Lake Caddo is from 200 yards to a mile from the different wells in this section. The lake was formed at the same time that Keefoot Lake was formed and is from 1 to 12 miles wide and 25 miles long. It is a beautiful sheet of water. In some places it is from 30 to 40 feet deep, so we were told. We walked on down to the second wild burning well and found a

Jasper Department

Conducted by J. D. M.

Don't forget the Farmers' Institute meets here, April 3.

Dr. Cook, the new cattle tick inspector, was in Sequachee county last week.

A union meeting will commence at the M. E. Church, south, Sunday, April 10.

W. H. Smith, of the Burnett Milling Co., spent several days last week at home near Dunlap.

Miss Mamie Fowler, of Louisville, Ky., is here in charge of the dressmaking department of J. E. Barr & Co.

Murray & Denning's Vandeville Co.

after filling a week's engagement at Sequachee, filled engagements here Monday and Tuesday nights to delight audiences.

different subject from the other. We got up to the rim of the crater, which is about 400 feet across, saw a lake of mud about 50 feet to 60 feet below the surface, and a flame much wider than the dry well, but not so high. At the surface of the lake the flame is about 20 feet in diameter and wider as it goes up with the mud 50 to 75 feet, mud and flame mixed, and it makes you think of Dante's inferno. The well throws up salt water and gas, the flame burns out the salt and evaporates the most of the water, hence the mud. The flame is never less than 50 feet and flashes carry it up to 75 or more feet. It is very interesting to watch its moods, as it flashes every now and again. The pressure here is 450 lbs., also, but the water and mud choke it some and the ground does not tremble as at the other well. We went from here to where they were drilling, about a mile away, which interested us very much. They have a high derrick about 75 feet, heavily constructed and heavy machinery, two large steam pumps and a heavy drilling machine. The drills are 6 inch tubes working inside of an 8 inch tube, the water pumped up and conveyed by a heavy wire wrapped hose into the top of the hollow drill, which goes down to the bottom of the hole and brings the mud out at the surface. We stayed there about an hour and they went down about 25 feet. There is no rock of any account here, but some very stiff mud they call gumbo. This well was down 1,200 feet. They expected to have to go from 600 to 1,000 more. We then walked on to Mooringsport, crossing the lake on an embankment into the lake for about a mile, and then on trestle work one-fifth of a mile to the town. We found a lot of drilling material lying around the depot and spent an hour learning all we could about the lake and oil wells. Several wells are in sight from here, some on full work and others finished and capped ready for work when pipes and tanks are ready. There are some pump wells, but mostly flowing from ten bla. to 5,000 that were brought in last week. However we will say 500 instead of 5,000. When a well is brought in there is generally a good deal of excitement and some wild guesses are made. We are told there is a standing offer of \$10,000 to anyone who will stop and control the wet wild well. Think it has been tried twice but given up—as impossible—some parties think. Those who don't want them controlled, have more money to spare than the owners, hence the impossible. "A wheel in within a wheel." See? There are some few wells that are duffers and given up, but capped and held ready to try again. There is 25 million feet of gas wasting every day at each of those wild wells, besides all the gas wasting at the different flowing oil wells, which is estimated to amount to 50 million feet more, making 100 million cubic feet per day. Enough to light and heat and manufacture all New York and a few Chattanooga thrown in, and two gas wells brought in a few days ago with a pressure of 460 lbs. each giving more gas than is wasting in the wild wells. They are going to pipe this to New Orleans, 300 miles away, and, of course, supply all the towns between Shreveport and New Orleans, beginning with a 16 inch pipe at the wells and increasing in size up to 30 inches at New Orleans. I have tried to talk coal here but it's no use—all you hear is oil, oil and gas, gas, boll weevil, corn, peanuts, hogs and diversified farming in general. We have been talking of a packing plant—fuel gas at 8c per 1000, is big inducement to manufacturers. Am surprised there is not more manufacturing than there are. There are men here every few days looking the ground over, but see what a blow, a gassy blow to the coal mining interests, and the end is not yet. Once we would not get gas without coal. Now gas is supplanting coal and oil is first assistant to gas, both of them much less expensive than coal. The first cost in a well is nearly the only cost and a very few men are required to manage a 300 to 500 barrel well. Coal cost is continuous—it is like water work, it is constant.

JOHN FRATER.

Saved His Leg.

"All thought I'd lose my leg," writes J. A. Swenson, Watertown, Wis., "Ten years of eczema, that fifteen doctors could not cure, had at last laid me up. Then Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured it sound and well." Infallible for Skin Eruption, Eczema, Salt Rheum, Bolls, Fever Sores, Burns, Scalds, Cuts and Piles. 25c at Whitwell Drug Co.

Miss Lillie May Moyers has returned from a visit in Chattanooga. Miss Nell Campbell has returned from a visit in Chattanooga. A. R. Hall, attorney, is at Gastonia, N. C., on legal business. Mrs. M. L. Harris, of Cleveland, Tenn., has been the guest of friends here. J. B. Ranslow, who has been in very poor health, is considerably improved. Mrs. A. L. Spears has returned from a visit to Miss Annie Laurie Spears in Chattanooga. Rev. R. G. Waterhouse, president of Emory & Henry College, Emory, Va., was here last week. The law firm of Brown & Spears have opened an office in Tracy City with Messrs. McKenzie.

Miss Vera Alexander was the guest of Miss Annie Laurie Spears in Chattanooga the first of the week. Capt. J. G. Lankester left Monday for a three day's trip in Alabama in the interest of the Converse Bridge Co. Rev. R. A. Kelly, of Chattanooga, who has been here holding quarterly meeting, returned to that city Saturday. Miss McKenny, one of the faculty at Pryor Institute, was the guest of friends in Chattanooga a day or two last week. Murray & Denning's entertainments at Sam Houston Academy Monday and Tuesday nights were thoroughly enjoyed. They are good 'uns. The genial Austin Coppinger, of Sequachee, was on our streets Monday and a number of our citizens received much entertainment hearing him relate his experiences during his visit in Washington to attend the inauguration.

Sam Houston Academy closed Saturday of last week with excellent exercises. The teachers were Miss Ava Lankester, principal; Miss Amy Lankester, assistant principal, and Miss Martha Tate, primary teacher, and their work has been excellent in every way.

In a general write up of the advantages of Stevenson, Ala., the Chronicle of that place, gives considerable space to tell about the furniture establishment of C. A. Simpson. Mr. Simpson is well known here as a hustler, and active business man, and we are glad to see him so favorably mentioned.

Engagement Announced.

The following from the Chattanooga Times will prove of interest to many.

"Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Baxter announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their sister, Miss Hazel Brock, to Vance Alexander, of Jasper. The exact date for the wedding has not yet been decided upon."

Mr. Alexander is the son of S. H. Alexander, the well known merchant, and at present holds a position of trust as cashier of the So. Pittsburg Savings Bank. Miss Brock has been the guest of the Alexander family here at various times, and is a favorite in social circles.

Eastland.

Special to the News.

Tom Rice and Miss Ollie Randolph were married Sunday, Esquire Scarborough officiating.

A little child of Mr. and Mrs. Elies Sullivan died Saturday and was buried Sunday in the Eastland cemetery. D. F. Turner conducted the funeral services.

There are several cases of whooping cough in this city this spring. Wm. Welch was in town Saturday. Ed Lockhart was in the city Saturday, selling milk and butter.

Shep Glen went to Sparta Saturday. Wm. Sapp was in town Saturday. Work is only half time at this place now, but everybody seems to be getting long very well.

Rosco Godfrey was in town Monday. Mrs. Marion Rogers left Saturday for Herrin, Illinois. J. G.

Alley & Vann Advertise.

Alley & Vann, a well known and very popular firm of Jasper, advertise in this issue, occupying the 4th page. This is a firm which does a big business, and has friends scattered over a wide territory. Always alert for trade they utilize the best paper in the Valley—the News—frequently for their announcements and find it pays, for the friends of the News, who are many, like to trade with those who advertise in it. Read their ad. carefully and give them a share of your patronage.

Kills Would-Be Slayer.

A merciless murderer is Appendicitis with many victims. But Dr. King's New Life Pills kill it by prevention. They gently stimulate stomach, liver and bowels, preventing that clogging that invites appendicitis, curing constipation, biliousness, chills, malaria, headache and indigestion. 25c at Whitwell Drug Co.

To Preach at Victoria.

Rev. F. M. Shirley will preach at Bethel Church, Victoria, Sunday at 11 a. m. All are earnestly invited to attend the service.

A SWOLLEN JAW.

is not pretty nor pleasant. Whether it's caused by neuralgia, toothache or accident, Ballard's Snow Liniment will reduce the swelling and relieve the pain. The great and sure cure for rheumatism, cuts, burns, bruises, scalds—any and all aches and pains. Sold by Sequachee Supply Store.

The man who puts an excessive price on things, in his greed sometimes over shoots the mark.

Would You Throw Away \$1000?

THE man who could save and bank \$5 per month and doesn't do it is throwing away \$60 per year—the gross earning power of \$1,000 at 6 per cent. interest.

Safe investments which annually pay 6 per cent. net are not so plentiful as they used to be. Why not start an account with us and conserve this "\$1,000 earning"? You can open an account with \$1.00. Come in and let us talk over the matter. We want your business and believe we deserve it from our past record.

Remember we pay 4 0/10 INTEREST on Time Deposits.

The Marion Trust & Banking Co.

JASPER, TENN.

S. H. ALEXANDER, President. T. G. GARRETT, Vice-President. A. L. SPEARS, Cashier.

The "Up-to-Date Grocery Store"

Keeps on hand at all times a COMPLETE LINE of Staple and Fancy Groceries of the HIGHEST GRADE:

Pineapples Trigg's Grape Fruit
Tomatoes Figs Candies Celery
Oranges Bananas Apples

and in fact everything kept in a first-class grocery store

—WE PAY HIGHEST PRICE IN CASH FOR POULTRY—

G. W. BREWER,

South Side Public Square }
YELLOW FRONT } Jasper, Tenn.

ALL are busy in springtime and summer, but winter-laying must be BRED into HENS a flock.

Eggs from winter-layers \$2 per setting; two settings, \$3.50. My stock is pure bred White Plymouth Rocks. Let me supply your needs. T. A. WILLIAMS, Jasper, Tenn.

SOUTHERN IRON AND STEEL

Corporation Formed in New Jersey to Take Over the Property.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 18.—With the incorporation at Trenton, N. J., of the Southern Iron and Steel Corporation, with a capital of \$17,000,000, the last step has been taken for the rehabilitation of the bankrupt Southern Steel Company, which is to be sold April 12 at Federal Court auction in Birmingham. The new corporation is to take over the properties of the old one at the sale, and is understood to have about \$3,000,000 for repair of the plants and operating capital. W. H. Hassinger, of this city, is to be president of the new concern if the reorganization plans carry.

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